

biotics. This form of therapy is contrary to present American usage of radiation. I would dispute the authors' contention that "contrary to American standards we limit x-ray therapy of acne vulgaris to selected most severe cases." As a matter of fact, x-ray therapy of acne is now rarely used by American dermatologists.

Forty graphs and tables together with 16 colored illustrations describing before and after treatment facilitate the understanding of the text. A detailed index makes for a quick reference. The bibliography includes important American standard works as well as the newer German ones.

This compact text, printed on good paper in clear black type, provides a complete description of the theory and practice of dermatologic radiation therapy. It is particularly suitable for the German dermatologic trainee who, according to directions for his graduate education, must engage himself in the field of dermatologic x-ray therapy for half a year. It is also valuable for the German practising dermatologist and radiation therapist if he needs a quick review.

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Spezielle Pathologische Anatomie. Edited by W. Doerr, G. Seifert, and E. Uehlinger. Vol. 7: **Haut und Anhangsgebilde—Spezielle Histopathologie.** Edited by U. W. Schnyder. Springer-Verlag, Berlin-Heidelberg-New York, 1973, (575 illustrations, 793 pp, \$108.80)

Skin and Appendages—Special Histopathology, edited by Schnyder, is the seventh volume in the series *Special Pathologic Anatomy*, under the general editorship of Doerr, Seifert, and Uehlinger.

Thirteen dermatologists and pathologists have contributed to this German language text: two Americans, Pinkus and Mehregan; two Austrians, Mach and Male; two Belgians, Achten and Wanet; one Frenchman, Grosshans; five Germans, Nase-mann, Rupec, Schnyder, Vakilzadeh, and Zaun; and one Swiss, Hardmeier.

In his introductory essay Schnyder gives a review of the international standard works published since 1894 on the histopathology of the skin. The pioneer work of Unna, a detailed microscopic study of skin diseases, gave the impetus to continued progress since then.

The book is divided into seven parts and contains an appendix, a glossary, and a good index.

In the first part dermatoses of known etiology are described: viral skin diseases; mycoses; dermatoses due to worms and protozoa, insects, and arachnids; noninfectious granulomas; infectious epithelioid cell granulomatoses (tuberculosis cutis, tuberculids, swimming pool granuloma, and leprosy);

dermatoses due to physical factors; cutaneous syphilis; and endemic spirochetoses. The second part deals with dermatoses of unknown etiology which are discussed according to topographic aspects. This arrangement, new for the German dermatologist, somewhat follows the viewpoint of A. Civatte; it may provide a quicker orientation for the pathologist. Described are: ichthyoses; follicular keratoses; keratotic changes characterized by parakeratosis; epidermal dermatoses characterized by dyskeratosis; acanthosis nigricans; bullous dermatoses (Schnyder describes a condition which he calls seborrhoeic pemphigoid, found in women of the seventh decade; it resembles pemphigus erythematosus); dermatoses involving both epidermis and cutis (lupus erythematosus is presented here); dermatoses predominantly involving the cutis; inflammatory subcutaneous dermatoses. In the third part all cutaneous diseases of metabolism are described. In the fourth part the pathology of the hair, and in the fifth part the pathology of the nails are discussed. In the sixth part all cutaneous tumors including nevi are described. The seventh part comprises reticulosos and granulomatoses; the latter includes mycosis fungoides and Hodgkin's disease. The appendix contains the description of the ultrastructure of the epidermis. An extensive, up-to-date bibliography of 18 pages is added.

The seven parts are divided into chapters. Each chapter begins with a well-rounded clinical description of the individual dermatosis, followed by a thorough description of the histology. Histochemistry, electron microscopy, and histologic differential diagnosis are also given attention. Each part provides adequate literature, old and new, the latter with a greater number of German sources.

I would like to criticize two statements: On page 119, it is stated that in American mucocutaneous leishmaniasis, larynx, pharynx, and the posterior parts of the oral cavity are affected. In reality, the earliest mucosal changes occur on the nasal mucosa. On page 269, it is quoted that in 1963, Ritzfeld proposed to group Much-Habermann disease with allergic vasculitis. It is not mentioned that as early as 1959, Szymanski had published vasculitis to be the basic and essential histopathologic change.

Three typographical errors should be corrected: On page 7 (heavy type), it should read histopathologisch; on page 299, line 3, Hoffmann; and on page 742 (heavy type), Langerhanssche.

575 good black and white illustrations explain the details of the histologic text. Among them are 48 facilitating the understanding of the chapter on the ultrastructure of the epidermis.

This 793-page volume is printed on glossy paper in clear type. Although this work is a collaborative

effort, it is of uniformly high quality and worth. It will be welcome as a modern German language book to both dermatologists and pathologists interested in the field of cutaneous histopathology.

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Dentistry and the Allergic Patient. Edited by Claude A. Frazier, M.D. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Illinois, 1973. (429 pp)

This is a useful book for the practicing dentist as well as for the dermatologist, otolaryngologist, and other medical specialists, whose field of interest may include the oral mucosa. The book has seventeen chapters contributed by twenty-one authors in addition to the editor. As with many multiauthored books, the material ranges in quality from excellent to mediocre. However, there is a sufficient amount of fine material to justify purchasing the book.

The chapters can be divided into three major topics. The first few chapters offer a basic outline of the allergic reaction and of the importance of considering the patient's allergic background before undertaking any type of dental or medical or surgical therapy.

In Chapter 2, "The Allergic Child: Special Considerations in Dentistry," L. V. Crawford, J. M. Duncan, and G. E. Vanderpool review the wide variety of laboratory procedures that may aid in the diagnosis of the allergic state. The specific treatment of the many different types of allergic states is well outlined. A similar chapter on the allergic adult is presented by L. L. Henderson. Reviews of drug allergy and anaphylaxis are presented by E. F. Ellis and C. A. Frazier. An outstanding review of the subject of reactions to local anesthetics is presented by J. A. Aldrete who has himself contributed extensively to the literature on this subject in recent years. Allergic reactions to inhalation anesthetics, hypnotics, narcotics, and analgesics are discussed by J. Adriani.

There is an excellent review of allergic contact stomatitis and cheilitis by A. A. Fisher, an outstanding authority in the field. He offers extensive data on concentrations and vehicles for the patch testing of a very large number of contact allergens which may be encountered in dentistry. This chapter also

offers a comprehensive bibliography of the field. There are useful chapters on occupational dermatoses in dentists by Samitz and Shmunes and on inhalant occupational hazards by Forman.

Sections of the book dealing with oral diseases as manifestations of allergy are somewhat less successful. A variety of oral mucosal diseases are discussed in considerable detail, but the allergic etiology of many of these conditions is merely hypothetical and the evidence to date is vague and inconclusive. Aphthous stomatitis is a common oral mucosal disease, but the prevailing opinion on etiology is one of psychosomatic rather than allergic causation.

Some cases of erythema multiforme represent allergy to specific drugs, but most cases of this symptom complex yield little information regarding etiology, and allergy cannot be assumed merely by a clinical response to corticosteroids. A chapter on salivary gland manifestations of allergy discusses everything from diabetes to measles to avitaminosis as possible allergic phenomena.

Allergic factors in the etiology of periodontal disease have recently been postulated, but the research to date is far from convincing, and while the possibility exists for an immune mechanism in the development of periodontal pathology, this particular role for the oral bacterial and mycotic flora has not been adequately demonstrated. Most cases of periodontal disease still respond well to the mechanical scaling or cleansing of tartar from the teeth and the maintenance of good oral hygiene.

Finally, some newer concepts are presented by D. Platt and J. A. Molinari in "The Role of Delayed Hypersensitivity" and by H. C. Bickley in "The Growing Significance of Immunologic Deficiency."

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Books Received

The following books have been received and will be reviewed in a subsequent issue.

Contact Dermatitis (2nd Edit), Alexander A. Fisher, M.D. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1973.

Pictorial, Dictionary of Medical Mycology, M. Otčenášek and J. Dvořák. Dr. W. Junk N.V., The Hague, 1973.